set up a Antarctic Study Centre at Vasco-da-Gama in Goa for which the Government of Goa has handed over the land to the Department of Ocean Development;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) what is the present position regarding establishment of the centre and by when it would start functioning; and

(d) what would be the main features of the proposed study centre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A plot of land of 18 acres has already been acquired in Goa for the Study Centre. The fencing of the land and boundary wall construction is going on.

(d) The Centre would provide both scientific and logistic support to the entire Antractic programme. The Centre will have laboratories, workshop, library, museum and an administrative wing. The laboratories will include disciplines of earth sciences, atmospheric sciences, ocean sciences and land ecology and microbiology.

Facilities for employees of Air Force Unit-run centres

3678. SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of seats reserved for the wards of the employees of the Air Force Unit-run canteens in locally run schools;

(b) what is the amount reimbursed to these employees as medical expenses during the last two years, year-wise and canteen-wise,

(c) what are the details of children's parks provided for their wards and facilities for their engagement in cultural sports and hobby-clubs; and

(d) whether these employees are entitled to make purchases from CSD canteens without paying the sales tax; if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) In locally run Air Force schools, there are no seats reserved for wards of particular categories of personnel, including the civilian employees of Air Force Unit-run Canteens.

(b) These empoyees are private employees, paid out of the "Non-Public" Funds, and are not entitled to payment of medical expenses out of these Funds.

(c) Children's parks, cultural and sports facilities and hobby centres at Air Force Stations are available to the children of all categories of personnel, including the civilian employees of unit-run canteens.

(d) These employees are entitled to make purchases from CSD canteens. The concession of exemption from Sales Tax is granted by certain States on purchases made by Service personnel from CSD canteens. These exemptions are not available to any category of civilian employees.

Reservation for SC/ST employees in the Central Governments undertakings

3679 SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide reservation in promotions to the employees of SCs and STs; and

(b) if so, whether it applies to the Central Government undertakings?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI BIREN SINGH ENGTI) (a) and (b) The reservation in promotions has already been provided to SC|STs in the Public Sector Undertaking as below:—

	S C	S T
(a) through limited departmental competitive examination in Group B, C&D (Cl. II, III & IV) . .	15%	7½%
(b) by selection from Group B (Cl. II) to the lowest rung or category in Group A (Cl.I) and in Groups B, C&D (Cl II, III & IV).	15%	7½%
(c) on the basis of seniority subject to fitness in Groups A, B, C&D (Cl. I, II, III & IV) .	15%	7½%
Subject to the condition that the element of Direct recruitment if any does not exceeds		66-⅔%

Special courts to try offences of sati

3680. SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up special courts to try the offence of *Sati*; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to set up such courts for any other offence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Government propose to introduce a Bill to prevent commission of sati in the country. One of the provisions of this Bill is the setting up of Special Courts to try offences coming under the proposed Act.

(b) Government set up Special Court whenever need for such courts arises.

सातवीं योजना की समीक्षा

3681. श्री रशीद मसूद : क्या योजना मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान 27 नवम्बर, 1987 के "इकानामिक टाइम्स" में "सेवेन्थ प्लान कम्स इन फार शार्प क्रिटिसिज्म" शीर्षक से प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में ब्यौरा क्या है , और

(ग) क्या सरकार ने इस मामले की समीक्षा की है , और यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है ?

योजना मंत्री, कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्री तथा विधि और न्याय मंत्री (श्री पी. शिवशंकर) : (क) तथा (ख) समाचार पत्र की यह रिपोर्ट स्पष्टतया भारत अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय केन्द्र के आर्थिक दलद्वारा अर्थव्यवस्था, 1987–88 की मध्यवर्ष पुनरीक्षा के विचार-विमर्श के लिए आयोजित सेमिनार पर आधारित है।

(ग) सातवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के मध्यावधि मूल्यांकन पर विचार-विमर्श चल रहा है।

Offer of joint space research centre with Soviet Union

3682. DR. H. P SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have accepted a proposal for a joint space research centre with the Soviet Union; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and in what manner it would be integrated with our indigenous national programme upto the nineties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYAN): (a) and (b) The Soviet interest in establishing an International Space Centre in India was announced during the the visit of the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union to India during November, 1986.